



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 31, 1997

### **S. 538**

#### **A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain facilities of the Minidoka project to the Burley Irrigation District, and for other purposes**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on October 22, 1997*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 538 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer land and facilities used by the Burley Irrigation District (the district) within the Minidoka Project in Idaho from the Bureau of Reclamation (the bureau) to the district. The cost of the transfer would be shared equally between the bureau and the district up to a total cost of \$80,000. Remaining costs would be paid by the bureau.

CBO estimates that enacting the bill would result in new spending subject to appropriation of about \$40,000 over fiscal years 1998 and 1999. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA), and would not impose any costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Other provisions in the bill would not have a budgetary impact. They include directions to the Secretary of the Interior to:

- transfer all natural flow, waste, seepage, return flow, and ground water rights to the district and provide the district with permanent storage rights in the Minidoka Project reservoirs on the condition that the district continue to pay all allocable costs of operating and maintaining the storage facilities; and

- provide the district with a permanent right to purchase reserve power from the Minidoka Project at the cost of production, the same rate as under current law.

S. 538 would require the Secretary of the Interior to complete the transfer, including actions required under the National Environmental Policy Act, within two years of enactment.

### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

CBO estimates that enacting the bill would result in new spending subject to appropriation of about \$40,000 over the 1998-1999 period. The cost of this legislation falls within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

Based on information provided by the bureau, CBO expects that the work required to transfer the facilities, including actions required under the National Environmental Policy Act, would cost about \$80,000. The federal government's share would be half this amount.

CBO estimates that completing the transfer of land and facilities would not result in any loss of future receipts because the district already has paid the federal government for the facilities that would be transferred. In addition, the water that would be transferred to the district is already being provided to it at no cost and the bureau is expected to continue this policy in the future. Finally, the district would continue to pay all allocable costs for operating and maintaining storage facilities and would continue to pay the rate for power that is required under current law.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 538 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would require the Burley Irrigation District to pay up to \$40,000 for its share of the cost of the transfer, but the district would incur this cost voluntarily.

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